



ONDCP STATEMENT ON MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION PROFITS FROM MARIJUANA

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Recent media reports have discussed Mexican drug trafficking organization revenues derived from marijuana sales in the United States. The estimate that drug cartels derive 60 percent of their revenue from marijuana transactions, based on data from 1997, was derived from models of marijuana yield and the nature of the drug trafficking business that are dated and may no longer apply. There have been changes in the volume and type of drugs trafficked by these organizations, as well as changes in their markets. Further, Mexican cartels derive revenue from criminal activities such as kidnapping, extortion, and human trafficking.

Because of the variety and scope of the cartels' business, and its illicit and purposefully obscured nature, determining the precise percentage of revenues from marijuana is problematic.